

based FFEL program, which has been a success by any measure.

There is a way, Mr. Speaker, that we can avoid making this critical mistake. Slightly reducing the cuts to lender subsidies and redirecting funding to provide additional support for Pell Grants, rather than creating costly new entitlement programs, are two steps that could be taken in an effort to achieve bipartisan support for this bill.

I believe the final step is to include language that would allow for a careful analysis of possible auction scenarios to determine if an auction is really in the best interests of students and taxpayers before requiring its implementation. In fact, I have heard from many Members, including 14 Democrats, who expressed concern about the automatic implementation of an auction and encourage that we approach any auction proposal with caution.

If the conference report achieves these four goals, I believe we can achieve strong bipartisan support for this bill. Doing anything less could endanger our support and trigger a Presidential veto threat, just as the House bill did in July. So as we prepare to formalize a conference report, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bear this in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I believe another part of the Senate's reconciliation bill also deserves the attention of this Chamber and inclusion in our conference report, specifically, the provision that would block the importation of terrorists detained at Guantanamo Bay into American communities.

We are a Nation at war and Guantanamo provides the highest level of security to ensure our enemies do not endanger American lives. Some Democrats have suggested that the site be closed and terrorists be sent into American communities such as Edwards Air Force Base in my district, Fort Knox, Kentucky, Quantico, Virginia, and others. But make no mistake; transferring terrorist detainees to these communities will create an opportunity for our enemies to escape, recruit and disseminate their terrorist skills, and it would make these domestic facilities prime targets for any attack that al Qaeda is able to mount within our borders.

Congress simply should not allow this to occur, and I thank the Senate for including this important language in its reconciliation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do the same by voting "yes" on this motion to instruct.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of proceeding with the conference negotiations on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. In appointing conferees today, I am proud to say that we will be taking the first step in making college more affordable and accessible for students.

Overall, this is an opportunity for the conference to look at both bills, consider concerns and put forth the best possible compromise; and that is our goal. During this process, not only have we looked carefully at what will work for students and families, but we have done our best to listen to and address the concerns brought to our attention. In an attempt at bipartisanship, we have met with the administration, as well as the staff from the other side of the aisle, in such discussions and with the administration, and we believe at the end of the day the conference will include provisions that have broad bipartisan support while maintaining some of our key priorities. These include the following:

Significant investment in Pell Grants. We heard the concern voiced on this floor by Members on the other side of the aisle, and we believe it is important to include a significant investment beyond the House bill in this conference. Understanding that increasing Pell Grants is also an issue included in President Bush's budget, we believe this goal can and should be met.

Cutting interest rates in half will remain a key priority for helping the middle class as well as ensuring debt relief for students and delivery of such needed financial support for Historical Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic serving institutions and other minority serving institutions.

I hope that we can continue the dialogue and work together on final passage in the conference. I am very proud to be here today to offer this motion to officially proceed in the conference with the Senate on legislation that will allow the Congress to do more to help Americans pay for the cost of college than any effort since the GI Bill at no cost to the taxpayers.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 will get us closer to the goal of ensuring access to higher education for all qualified students.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate rejected transferring al Qaeda terrorists from Guantanamo to facilities in the United States by a vote of 94-3. Senator MCCONNELL stated at that time, "It is better for the safety and security of the American people that terrorists at Guantanamo Bay are not moved to American communities. It is the sense of the Senate that detainees housed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including senior members of al Qaeda, should not be transferred stateside into facilities in American communities and American neighborhoods."

Many senior members of al Qaeda are secured at Guantanamo Bay, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who masterminded the September 11 terrorist attacks that killed approximately 3,000 Americans; Majid Khan, who developed plans to poison water supplies inside the United States; Abdul Rahim al-

Nashiri, who orchestrated the attacks on the USS *Cole* which killed 17 United States sailors. This is just a sampling of the people that are in Guantanamo Bay.

Are Americans better protected by bringing these terrorists to our homeland, or by keeping captured members of al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations 528 miles and an ocean away from the homeland? Terrorists held at Guantanamo are treated in accordance with United States and international law and are held at the highest level of security, ensuring that they are not a threat to the United States citizens.

Gitmo alternatives include the use of up to 17 military detention facilities. Less secure facilities allow for the recruitment and radicalization of new members within the detention population as well as enhanced escape opportunities. Domestic detention facilities may become prime targets for terrorist attacks on United States soil and they will create uncertainties about detainees' "constitutional rights."

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Standards at Guantanamo are equal to or better than similar institutions in the United States. They are relatively new facilities. They have culturally appropriate meals. They have Korans and respectful silence during Islam's five daily prayers. The detainees receive medical care and at least 2 hours of daily outdoor recreation. An inspection official from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in March 2006 called it a model prison.

Bottom line, the Guantanamo Bay facility is a clean, safe and humane facility for the terrorists housed there, as well as a facility that affords security and protection for American citizens. We should accept the Senate language in their bill and make it clear that these prisoners should stay at Guantanamo Bay and that they should not be transferred to facilities in the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and I thank him for his leadership on this very important piece of legislation.

It is imperative that we go to conference on this bill and that we pass the College Cost Reduction Act. It provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to help students afford college and to do so at no new cost to the taxpayer. Let me emphasize that point: At no new cost to the taxpayer.

We just heard this bill described, I believe, as containing unprecedented new spending, and I think it is important to point out that it is not new spending, it is redirected spending.